(W.) Roxbury, April 26, 1877 45

Dear friend May:

I have received the number of the Worcester Spy, which you had the kindness to send me, containing a brief communication from your pen in relation to the Westboro' Reform School. The recent disclosures respecting the punishments inflicted in that institution are of a startling character, for which the humane people of this Commonwealth were not at all prepared. Certainly, for one, I never imagined such severe and brutal treatment could be inflicted in any institution in this Commonwealth claiming to be reformatory. The exposure, I think, will be pretty sure to bring about a change in the discipline at the Westboro' School. I see the editor of the Spy tries to contravene your statement as to the condition of the School.

You have doubtless received from me a copy of the Boston Daily Advertiser of Monday last, containing some criticisms of mine upon a recent letter of Rev. Dr Eliot, of St. Louis, on the state of affairs in Louisiana. I am more and more convinced that President Hayes is indulging in dreams of Utopia as respects pacificating the South by his "policy," which, thus far, is simply complying with all the demands of the old rebels, and leaving the freedmen entirely at their mercy. A bloody usurpation has been successfully inaugurated in Louisiana and South Carolina — on the part of the President "with the best intentions"! Hayes is no more entitled to be the Chief Magistrate of the republic than is Packard or Chamberlain to be Governor of his respective State; without the colored vote of such State, under "bayonet rule," Tilden would have been Grant's successor.

My dear friend, I wish to make a sincere and urgent proposition to you. On the 23d of next month, Frank and I are to embark from New York

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to Liverpool in the Cunard steamer Algeria, intending to arrive home about the first week in September. Now, we are strongly desirous of your good company, going and coming; and we beg you to talk the matter over with your family, and see whether there is any serious obstacle that will prevent your taking the excursion with us. I am sure you imperatively need rest and recreation; and I believe it cannot fail to be greatly beneficial to your health. Your friends over there are my friends, and vice versa. We shall want to visit the same places, and a common and most hearty greeting will be extended to us by our English and Scottish friends. Say you will go!

Yours, affectionately,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison

Rev. Samuel May
Leicester
Mass.

April 26-1877